OLD DU QUOIN CEMETERY
Perry Co's Oldest Marked Grave
Sec 27, T6S, R1W
Perry Co., Ill.

IN
memory of
EPHRAIM SKINNER
who died Oct 11th 1820
aged 52 years.

OLD DU QUOIN CEMETERY

Sec.27, T6S, R1W.

Perry Co.,Ill.

We now find a grave older than little Ephriam McElvain who died in the year 1822 and is buried in the McElvain Cemetery west of DuQuoin.

In Memory Of

EPHRAIM SKINNER

who died

Oct 3 1820

aged 52 yrs

1820
52
b. 1768

1804
1768
36

Others of the family buried in this plot are:

Skinner, Lucius Apr 7 1804 Mar 28 1851
Juliana,his wife Jan 31 1809 Mar 5 1874

Root, Hiram died Feb 20 1847 age 55y 6m
Aunt Sally...Sarah Skinner Root, wife of Hiram Root
born Jul 27 1797 died Jun 29 1867
Ephriam Skinner, son of H & S Root d. May 26 1855 ae 26yrs 1829
Oliver Beckley, son of H & S. Root d. Apr 11 1855 ae 32yrs 1823
Anna Porter, dau of H & S Root d. Apr 14 1864 ae 26yrs 1838

Hinckley, Hiram 1806-1862
Sarah 1815-1902
James R.,son of H.R. & A.A.Skinner d. Oct 29 1879
ae 4m 23d
Harlie J.,son of H.R. & A.A.Skinner d. Jun 2 1878
ae 9m 9d

1855 1855
26 32
1829 1823

1864
26
1838

As found by
M.E. and E.E.Spurgeon,
710 Taffee St.,
Pinckneyville,Ill 62274
Oct 8th, 1975.

Not so — See later research P/3. EHS

See P/3 Re Stone-EHS

EPHRAIM SKINNER

Hiram Root and Ephraim Skinner, natives of New York, arrived and located here in 1816. Mr. Skinner died four years afterward.[1]

.....The settlement of Old DuQuoin was started by the ancestors of G. S. Smith and L. B. Skinner.

Ephraim Skinner came to this country and settled on the banks of Little Muddy at a point that is now known as the John Mann bridge, which was then a point where the old Kaskaskia trail crossed Little Muddy River.

Lucius Skinner carried mail in 1815, when he was 16, between Kaskaskia and Shawneetown. Ephraim, at his death, was buried in that vicinity, probably at the old grave yard just back of the Henry Mann place. This was about 1812. (?)* Tombstone in Old DuQuoin says 1820. EES

After that the family went back to New York and Lucius was married there in 1825. They came again at a later date and settled in the vicinity of what is now known as Old DuQuoin. Lucius was then a surveyor's assistant on the Illinois Central RR's location work.

Mingled with the people from NY are some who came from New England, people who had migrated to Ohio, and from Ohio came here. Among these appear the family names of Adams, Wall, Roots, Skinner, Hinkley, Smith and Keyes.....[2]

1. McDonnough's History of Randolph, Monroe, & Perry Cos., Ill. 1883 p/433

2. Fragments and memos from memories of old timers..DuQuoin Call Cent. Edition 1853-1953. Courtesy of Dr. H. K. Croessmann.

My note...Old DuQuoin Cem. Not on banks of Little Muddy. Was Eph. buried in the Old Campbell Cem. and stone later put up at Old DuQuoin Cem. with rest of the family...was his body moved here? See Later- P/3 EES

Elizabeth E. Spurgeon,
710 Taffee St.,
Pinckneyville, Ill 62274
October 1975.

OLDEST MARKED GRAVE IN PERRY COUNTY, ILL.

After reading "Fragments and memos from memories of old timers..." Centennial edition of the DuQuoin Call 1853-1953, in which it was stated that Ephraim Skinner, at his death, was buried in the vicinity of the John Mann bridge, probably at the old graveyard just back of the Henry Mann place, we began to wonder just where his body really was. Is it in the old Campbell a/k/a the Andy Mann Cemetery, or was it moved to the Old DuQuoin Cemetery where his tombstone is?

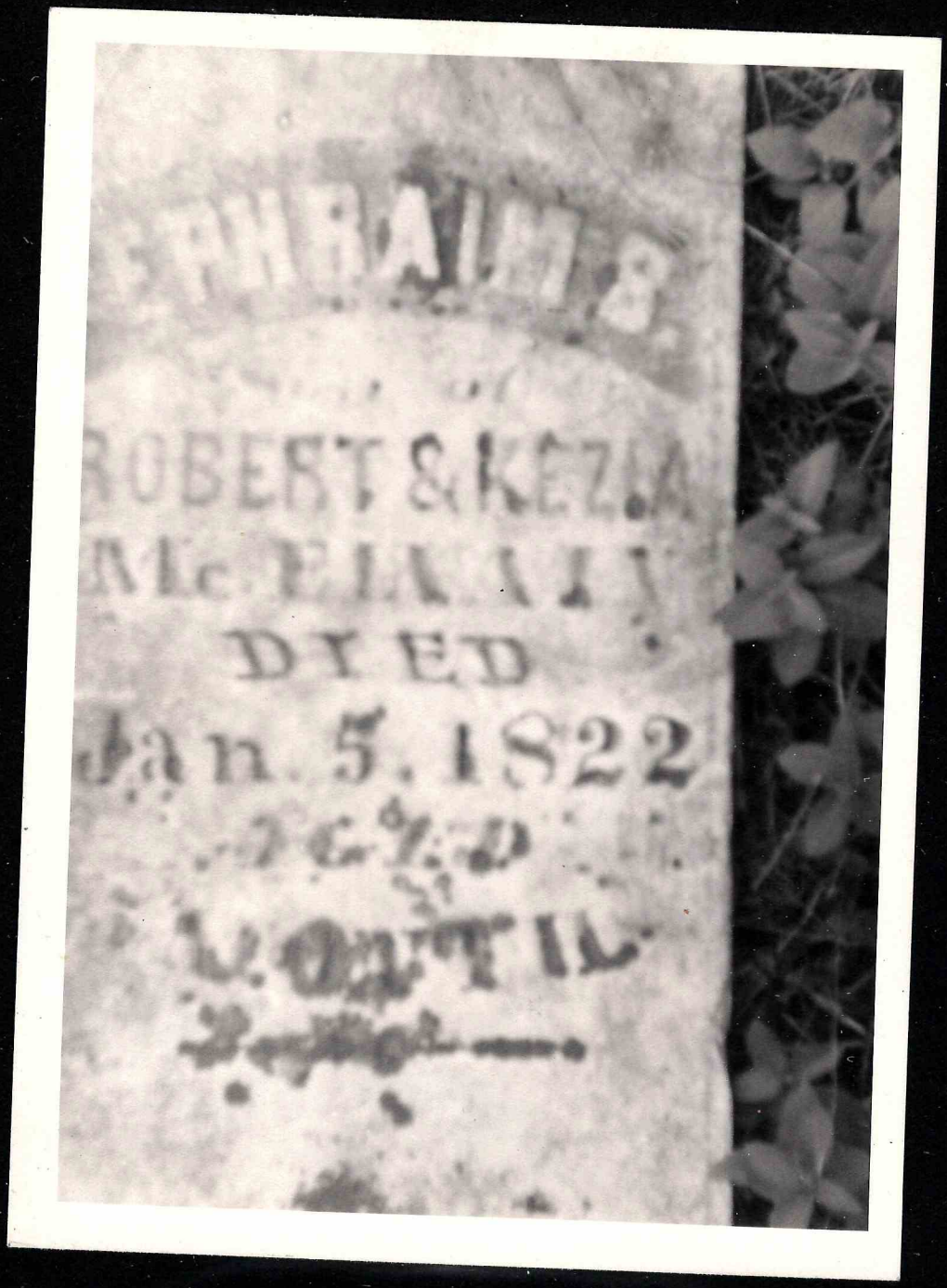
M. E. Spurgeon witched at this spot and several feet around it but could find no where that a body had been buried there or the ground disturbed...on either side or next to the stone.

	None here	None here	None here
None here	Eph.Skinner Stone	Julianna Skinner Stone	Lucius Skinner Stone
None here	None here	Body here	Body here

So it is our opinion that Ephraim Skinner was buried in the old Campbell Cemetery but the family had a stone put up in his memory in the family plot at Old DuQuoin Cem.

We also measured the beautiful, old, pine tree here and found it to be twelve feet around. The caretaker thinks it may be hollow.

As found by M.E. and E.E.Spurgeon,
29 Oct 1975,
710 Taffee St.,Pinckneyville,Ill 62274



EPHRIAM B.
son of
ROBT.& KEZIA McELVAIN.
McElvain Cem.,Perry Co.
Ill.

ROBERT & KEZIA

ROBERT & KEZIA

OLDEST MARKED GRAVES FOUND IN PERRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

- - - - - - - - - - - -

1. A marker is in the Old DuQuoin Cemetery (sec 27, T6S, R1W) which reads as follows:

In Memory of

EPHRIAM SKINNER

who died

Oct 3 1820

aged 52 years

It is almost certain that this is purely a memorial stone erected on the Skinner family lot as historical references to this man indicate he was buried either in the Old Campbell Cemetery (sec 34 T6S R1W) or on his land near it. We have "Witched" over every inch of this gravesite and can find no evidence that there is or ever was a body buried here.

See Southern Illinois Genealogical Societies "Saga" x/4; p/23 for history of this cemetery, known originally as West Prairie Cemetery with first burial made ca 1835 or 1836.

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2. Little EPHRIAM B. McELVAIN, a grandson of the Rev. Soldier, LEWIS WELLS, died 5 Jan 1822, and is buried with his father, ROBERT McELVAIN, in McElvain Cemetery (sec 14, T6S, R2W) near DuQuoin.

3. The third oldest burial found is that of INFANT SON of Levi and Elizabeth Short GREEN/GREENE who died 7 Sept 1827 and is buried in the old Levi Greene Burying Ground, presently called Sprague or Grasshopper...also sometimes Jamestown (sec 34, T5S, R4W). The name recorded in the Perry County Deed records is as first given. Elizabeth Short Greene, the mother of this child, was the daughter of Rev. Eli Short of Randolph County, Il....an early Baptist minister in the area.

4. ROBERT EVLEIGH TAYLOR, a physician from England, died 12 Sept 1827 and is buried in the Swanwick Family Cemetery (sec 11 T4S R4W) near Swanwick, Il. His stone is quite large and though plain it is unusual because of the sentimental verse inscribed upon it.

From this wild where with anxious breast
He sought for himself a place of rest
And for his beloved wife and children
They to mourn in hopes desire
Waited his return with _____pain.

With stealthy pace death reached him on his way
And suddenly seized him as his destined prey.
_____ _____ held his acking hand and dicteous
Friends held his acking hand, cooled his parched hand
In the last _____caught his parting sigh
And closed with trembling hand his filmy eye
And whilst near this gloomy bower midst the love
We of the_____
Keeps o'er the spot where he whose generous mind
Glowed with an ardent love for human kind
Whom talent guided _____by her _____ way
Lies slowly mingling with the common clay.

Was this copied from something or was it composed by those of the Swanwick family with whom this man apparently made his home...or visiting with them. I have the feeling that they are talking about and mourning their friend in what they are saying here, and the words were for and about him. Some of the words were illegible and others not certain about.

4. THOMAS SWANWICK, one of Perry County's earliest settlers is buried here also and is on his home place. His stone indicated that he died in the year 1828. This is in error as he did not make his will until 5 July 1829 and probate records show that he died 24 July 1829. See probate box #331 in office of Cir. Clerk, Pinckneyville, Il.

5. ALFORD HANSFORD died in Dec. 1831 (no day given) and is buried in the old Greenbriar Cemetery southwest of Pinckneyville (sec 27 T6S R3W). This stone was catalogued about 1959 and again a year or more later by two different groups. In 1974 the stone was no longer visible but it is almost certain that it is down and covered by dirt thrown over it by animals. We did not have a probe along that day or could have found it.

6. JOHN BROWN died 14 April 1832. I do not find a marked grave for him but deed records show his land to be near Hopewell. It is my belief that he was one of the first buried there (sec 19 T5S R3W). The church was organized in 1831, the church building begun in the same year and was completed in 1833.

There were several other early settlers (Hutchings, Malones, etc) who died here early (see probate records) and the preceeding may not be the first burials, however all but number 6 is or has been marked at some time, and are proven.

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Elizabeth Eiker Spurgeon,
710 Taffee,
Pinckneyville, Il 62274

("Old Hutchings Cem. in T5S R2W ?")
Wm. Hutchings (bro. of John & two of early settlers here, died in 1826 & his probate in Randolph Co., Il. as Perry not yet organized.
E. Spurgeon

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Name	
SWANWICK, Thomas	24 Jul 1829
MALONE, Lewis	7 Dec 1830
BERRY, John F.	5 Jan 1831
PYLE, William	6 Aug 1831
SMITH, Richard	28 Sep 1831
BROWN, John	30 Apr 1832
HUTCHINGS, Alexander	3 Aug 1832
MARLOW, Meredith	2 Feb 1833
BENDER, Briant F.	9 Aug 1833
GODWIN, Nathan	17 Sep 1833
BROWN, Augustine	9 Dec 1833
JAY, Rebecca (Presented in Court 30 Dec 1833)	12 Apr 1831
CAMPBELL, John	11 Jan 1834
DORROUGH, Martha Finley	__ Aug 1834
FINLEY, Martha	__ Aug 1834
McCLURE, Elizabeth Finley	23 Sep 1834
BROWN, James C.	6 Sep 1834
MURPHEY, Robert B.	20 Dec 1834

Elizabeth Eiker Spurgeon
710 Taffee, Pinckneyville, Il 62274

EARLY DEATHS

as

Taken from Probate Records

Perry County, Illinois

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The oldest gravestone other than this one in this cemetery is 1835, probably date use of it began.

2. Little EPHRIAM B. McELVAIN, a grandson of the Revolutionary Soldier, LEWIS WELLS, died 5 January 1822, and is buried in the McElvain Cemetery (sec 14, T6S, R2W) near DuQuoin.

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SACRED to the memory of ROBERT EVELEIGH TAYLOR of Bolton-le Moors Lancashire England a physician of eminence in his native country and a man beloved and respected by all who knew him. He died Sept 12 1827 aged 54 years

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He sought for himself a place of rest
And for his beloved wife and children
They to mourn in hopes desire
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